GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1318
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2000
NATIONAL PLANS TO PRESERVE MEDICINAL PLANTS
JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of schemes formulated by the Government to improve the quality of entire natural products industry and promote them in a planned manner in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to formulate any national policy to preserve and save them from being extinct in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government also propose to link the entire mechanism to forest and wild life-management for long-term preservation and management of medicinal plants at the national level;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (PROF. RITA VERMA)

(a) : The Government has amended schedule `T` of Drugs&Cosmetics Rules, 1945 and notified Good Manufacturing Practices for Ayurveda, Siddha and Unani Medicines.Further, comprehensive standards for the formulation of single and compound drugs of each system are also being made and periodically included in the Pharmacopoeias.

(b)to(f) : A Task Force on the conservation and sustainable use of Medicinal Plants has given a Report which indicates the measures to be taken to promote the growth and development of the medicinal plant sector. Various steps have also been initiated by specialized agencies which inter-alia include:-

- Setting up of Herbal Gardens.
- Setting up a network of Gene Banks.
- Adoption of a National Forestry Action Programme which includes development of Medicinal Plants.
- Establishment of National Parks and Sanctuaries which harbour large varieties of Medicinal Plants.
- Formulation of a project on conservation of Agro-biodiversity under National Agricultural Technology Project with Medicinal Plants as an integral component.
- It is also proposed to establish a Medicinal Plant Board which will also coordinate all aspects related to the development of Medicinal Plants.